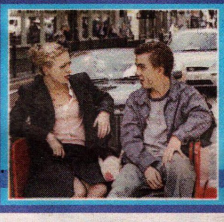
No 758 March 21, 2004

THE FUNDAY TIMES



London calling
We meet Agent Cody Banks 2 stars, Frankie Muniz and Hannah Spearritt
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Action station
Be a Spy Kids 3 winner and you'll bag a day at Namco Station in London
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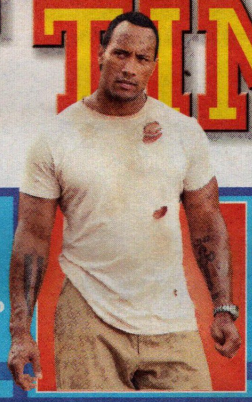

What's cookin'
Funday risks talking to The Rock about his new Welcome to the Jungle movie
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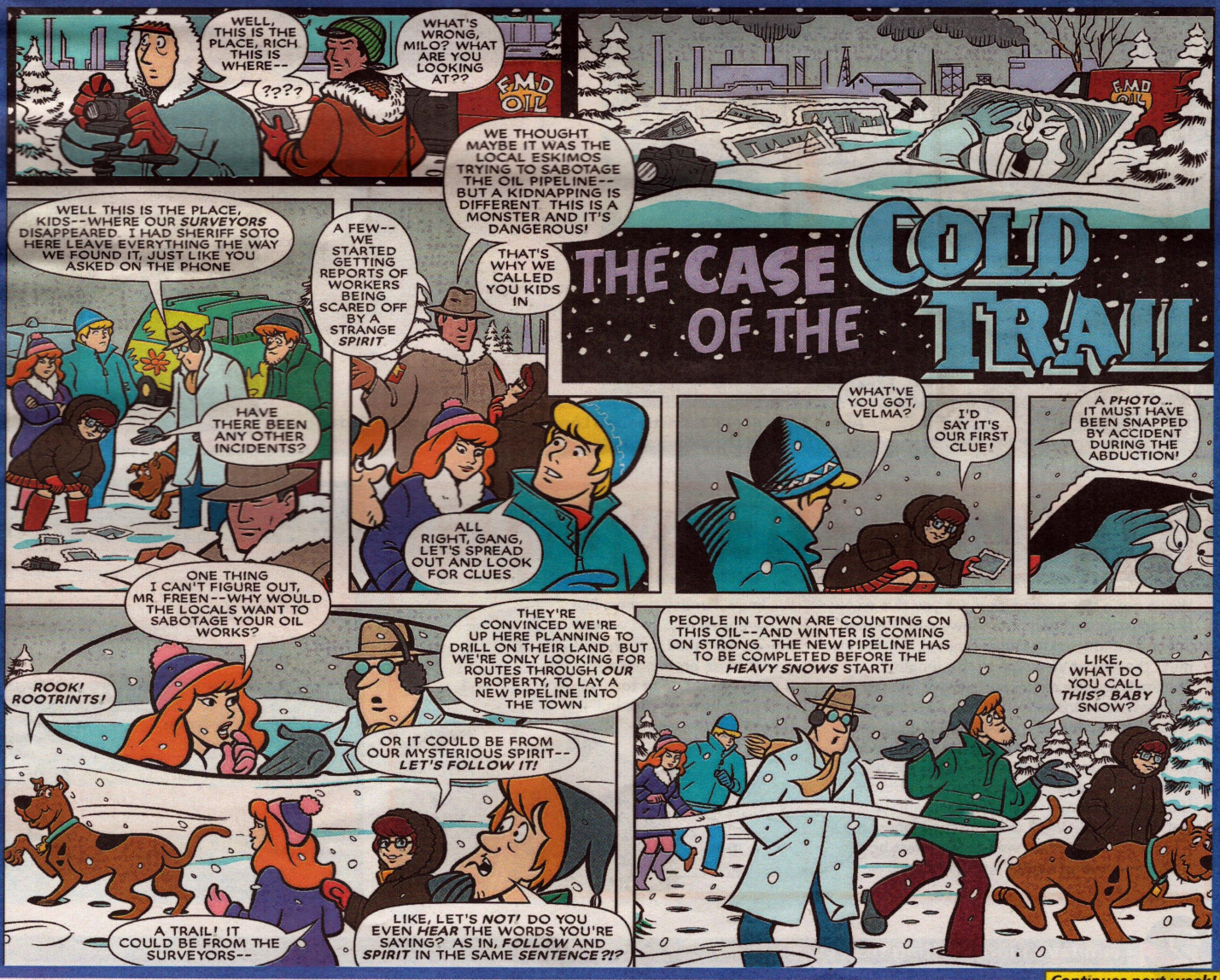
SCOOBY-DOO! in THE CASE OF THE COLD TRAIL



Continues next week!

DOUBLE AGENTS

Paul Wray meets Frankie Muniz and Hannah Spearritt, stars of Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London

FRANKIE MUNIZ

Is the sequel as action-packed as the first Agent Cody Banks film?

They're wanting to keep it pretty much the same, but with a bit more comedy and not as much serious, serious action because the first one was pretty violent. There is still action but it's more comedic.

Is Hannah's character your love interest?

Originally, Hannah's character was my love interest but they worked that out and changed her so that she's a secret agent working for Scotland Yard. Hannah did a whole bunch of fighting as, of course, there's a big fight scene in the movie. She's great, a lot of fun.

Did you enjoy filming in London?

I was here for two months but I only saw where we were filming. Luckily though, we did all the tourist attractions in the film. I didn't have that much time and I only had Saturdays off – and then I was just tired and stayed in all day. But it was fun.

You drove a red Ferrari in the first film, do you get a cool car in this one?

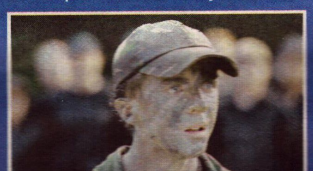
I don't even get a car this time! I was so depressed, I didn't drive for two-and-a-half months. I thought I was going to die because that's all I do back home. Not even in the movie do I get to drive around. We have a black cab that's got TVs and an M&M dispenser that shoots into your mouth, though.

Why didn't they let you drive? Is it because we drive on the left over here?

I don't know! I mean, Cody would know how to do that, he'd be the best driver. That would be a cool scene actually, but ... I don't know. That's just me dreaming. I really wanted to drive here but they wouldn't let me!

Do you enjoy the stunts?

The explosions are scary. I did a stunt where we're in a construction site and a crate is going up with metal beams on it. I grab it and Diaz, the bad guy, shoots a rocket launcher at me which hits a door under me and it completely explodes. It was really close. I actually had to do it because the stunt double did it the day before, for the wide shot, and broke his nose, needed 15 stitches and chipped all his teeth! But luckily everything went fine.



HANNAH SPEARRITT

Hannah, can you describe your character in the film?

She's called Emily Summers and she's a feisty, independent, fights-her-own-battles type of girl. She is not just the girl alongside the hero, Emily's on a mission, too.

We hear you have your own fight scenes.

Yes, we did a day of fighting. That was great fun to film. We had a stunt co-ordinator on the day who went through the moves so that it was choreographed. I had a trampette to make the jumps bigger. I also had a stunt double. She came in for the bits where my legs split 180°.

Did you enjoy acting in a big Hollywood film?

It was a mixture, really. Initially, it was quite daunting. I did feel like such a small person in a big production. It was all a learning curve. But you get over that and Anna Chancellor and James Faulkner, who play older characters and who are also English, took me aside and helped me a little. Obviously they could see that this was my first job.

What bits are you looking forward to seeing on screen?

It's just interesting to see London on film, with all its history. Most filming I'd done before was abroad, either in America or Barcelona, so it really nice to film in England. I'd like to see the bit when we are on the back of a rickshaw going around Piccadilly Circus and Chinatown. That was the first day of shooting and it was raining. We ate Chinese orange chicken all day and Frankie was fed up with it by the end of the shoot!

Is acting your major focus now?

Yeah. Even if the acting thing wasn't to come off, I won't hurry back to singing, trying to jam in a quick solo music career. I'd rather bake cakes!

How is going out with Paul different now that neither of you are in S Club?

It's completely different, it's put a new spin on things. All of our time dating was within the band, that was all we knew of each other. We had to readjust but it worked out fine. He's still there.

What about the rest of S Club?

Jon comes round every two weeks, bashing our door down. It's nice that we've spread out and done things we're naturally interested in. They're fond memories and they get fonder in time. It's a year now since we split up.

Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London [cert PG] is out on Friday

CODY BANKS AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA

HELLO EVERYONE!

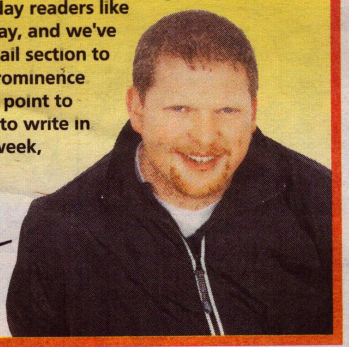
We've got a star-packed issue for you this week! Not only our exclusive interviews with Hannah Spearritt and Frankie Muniz [above], but we also meet the star of Welcome to the Jungle, The Rock. On the centre spread, we join top author Pete Johnson as he visits a secondary school to take questions from the pupils.

As soon as you flick through Funday this week, you'll notice some exciting changes. We've got more reviews and previews than ever before, so that you'll know exactly what's hot and what's not every week. We'll cover all the biggest movie and music releases, as well as the latest books, websites, products and TV programmes.

We know Funday readers like to have their say, and we've moved our f-mail section to give it more prominence. If you've got a point to make, be sure to write in. Have a great week,

Dave

Dave, editor



THE FUNDAY TIMES

COMPETITIONS

Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY or funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk [only one e-mail per entrant please]

Competition deadline: March 31

Entrants to Funday competitions must be 16 and under.

F-MAIL

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX or funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

NOT RECEIVED YOUR PRIZE?

Please telephone 020 7711 1521 or e-mail custserv@fundaytimes.co.uk

GOT A NEWS STORY?

Please telephone 020 7782 7415 or e-mail funday.news@sunday-times.co.uk

7 DAYS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD THIS WEEK

TODAY

Presidential elections take place in El Salvador, the most densely populated country in the Americas • The vernal equinox heralds the start of spring • To mark the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa, the United Nations has designated this a week of solidarity with people struggling against racism and discrimination

THURSDAY

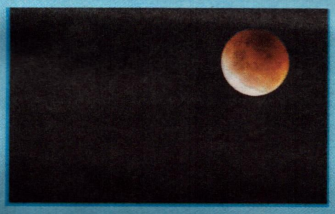
Somerset House, in London, hosts the Heaven on Earth: Art From Islamic Lands exhibition, featuring collections from The State Hermitage Museum in Russia and The Khalili Collection in London. Exhibits includes two jewelled flasks produced for the Mughal royal court in India in the 17th century; the only other jewelled flask from this collection, brought back by Robert Clive of India, goes on sale at Christie's next month and is expected to fetch more than £1m

MONDAY

Alternative Fashion Week, featuring new and innovative designers, kicks off at Old Spitalfields Market in London • World Day For Water promotes public awareness of the extent to which a clean water supply helps us economically and keeps us all healthy

FRIDAY

Venus, Mars, the Moon and Saturn align this evening, forming a visible line in the western sky • Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ film opens in the UK. The film, shot entirely in Latin and Aramaic with English subtitles, has inflamed debate because of its violent content and controversial approach to the story of Jesus



TUESDAY

The Beck's Futures exhibition of contemporary art begins previewing at the ICA in London. Works range from animal forms sculpted from carpet fluff to an audio artist who covers songs by the likes of the Rolling Stones and Radiohead • Patricia Amos, the mother found guilty of letting her 14-year-old daughter skip classes almost every other day, is sentenced at Bicester Magistrates Court

SATURDAY

The Great Train Robbers were convicted 40 years ago today. Ten men were found guilty of the famous £2.6m robbery from a mail train • The School Mock Trial Competition final takes place at the Old Bailey in London, where children will learn about the law by playing the parts of barristers, jurors and witnesses

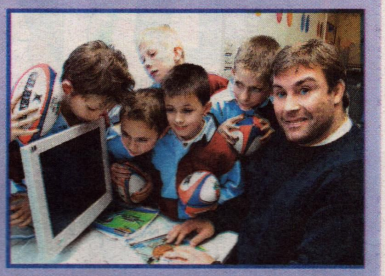
WEDNESDAY

Christie's hosts a sports memorabilia sale, spanning the history of football during the 20th century. Items include Jason Leonard's Rugby World Cup 2003 shirt and Ronaldo's boots from the 2002 World Cup Final • The World Health Organisation commemorates Robert Koch's first successful isolation of the TB bacilli in 1882 with World Tuberculosis Day

PICTURES AP/DAVE CANNON-DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC/DAVID GUTTENFELDER/ROBERTO CANDIA, PA/NEIL MUNNS/TONY HARRIS

NEWS

Winning ways



Rugby World Cup winner Jason Leonard has forgotten rucks, and is talking books, to help youngsters prepare for their SATs. The most-capped rugby union player in history has teamed up with education website www.juniors.net to launch 10 golden rules to revision – called the @Kids Diet guide. "We have put down some golden rules to make it enjoyable and fun, but the work ethic is still there," Jason tells Funday. And the big man remembers how he hated exams as much as anyone else. "It was seen as something that was necessary but it was quite painful and dreary. If I could do it again with something like this, I'd benefit immensely," he adds.

Sista act

If you fancy a girlie day out then get yourself down to Sistastyle at ExCeL, in London's Docklands, from April 3-5. Sistastyle is the coolest day out for girls [sorry, boys!] promising fashion, beauty, music and must-have accessories all under one roof. Tickets are £12 each and stars such as Lemar and Jamelia will be popping along to perform. For details, call the hotline on 0870 060 1773 or check out www.sistastyle.com

Teed off

Practice makes perfect, even if you're as successful as Tiger Woods. This amazing picture was taken at a Dubai hotel where, 300m up on a helicopter landing pad, the world's number one golfer practised his teeing off into the Arabian Gulf below. Obviously, he's getting ready for the US Masters in April

Going nuts

The Highways Agency in Liverpool has come up with a novel idea to help a rare colony of red squirrels cross a busy road – rope bridges! The nut-loving rodents are used to leaping from branches to cross the A565 in Formby, Merseyside, but since the trees were pruned, the squirrels have been forced to weave through the traffic. Now five rope bridges have swung to their rescue

Past present

Palaeontologist Scott Sampson believes it's a great time to be into dinosaurs. "We are finding new dinosaurs almost weekly," says the Salt Lake City-based specialist. Scott appears in the new CGI-based mini-series, Dinosaur Planet on Discovery Channel. The show uses the latest findings to bust previously-held theories. "Ever since Jurassic Park, large, carnivorous dinosaurs have been depicted running at Jeep-chasing speeds, but recent research suggests that this is impossible," Scott points out

Dinosaur Planet starts on Discovery Channel, today, at 3pm

WORDWISE

.....Mother's Day.....

The Latin for mother is "mater" and many words that begin with mater- or matr- are related to the idea of motherhood, for example matrimony and even matrix.

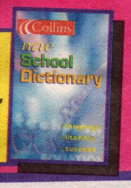
matron NOUN In a hospital, a senior nurse in charge of all the nursing staff used to be known as matron.

maternal ADJECTIVE relating to or involving a mother *EG her maternal instincts.*

maternity ADJECTIVE relating to or involving pregnant women and birth *EG a maternity hospital.*

The Greek for mother is "*meter*", so: **metropolis** NOUN, a very large city. From the Greek *meter + polis* meaning "mother city".

Taken from Collins New School English Dictionary [2nd Edition, ISBN: 0-00-712636-0, paperback £5.99]



WOW!

Aptly named the clearwing, this transparent-winged butterfly is part of a live collection in Dorset. Owner Clive Ferrell is hoping to open a £15m butterfly dome in St Albans, Hertfordshire, next year – housing 250,000 butterflies

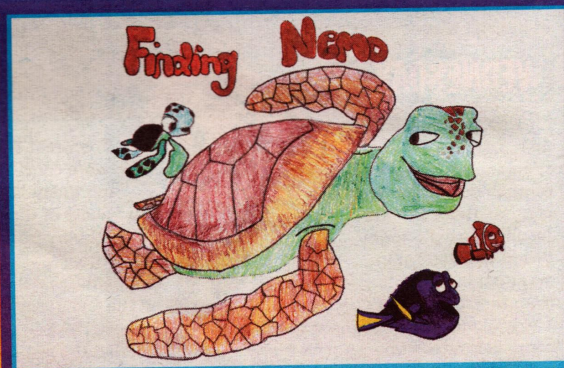
f-mail

IN THE KNOW

Leading reference publisher DK and popular internet search engine Google have joined up to help you keep on top of your homework. The fact-packed e-encyclopedia [£25] is full of knowledge to absorb and also links you to safe, secure educational websites. It features nine main subject areas – space, earth, nature, human body, science & technology, people & places, society & beliefs, arts & entertainment and history. This week's star f-mailer will receive £100 worth of books from the DK catalogue. The other printed f-mailers will receive a copy of DK's e-encyclopedia.

STAR

Dear f-mail,
Don't you just hate the way adults pretend they're 16 when they're 40? It's bad enough that they wear crop tops and mini skirts and listen to the same music as you, but when they act like your best friend and want you to tell them your secrets, it really gets annoying! Does anyone feel like this?
Amelia Ransome, London



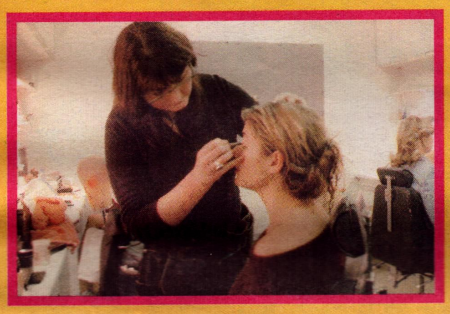
Hannah Chadwick, 10, Gayton

Beryl's up to her usual antics!

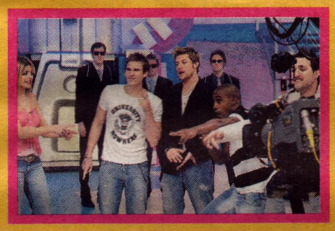
TOTAL MAYHEM

Ministry of Mayhem, on Saturday mornings, is the maddest show on TV. Presenter Holly Willoughby takes us through her day on set

I have to be at the studios by 6.30am on Saturday. I always get really nervous before a show, but you get that adrenaline rush and something takes over when you go live. At the moment we go live, I would happily swap places with anybody as I'm so scared, but it always seems to go okay. If you make mistakes, people forgive you and it makes the show a bit more fun, so I don't mind.



I was nervous about today's show but I was also really looking forward to it as we had great guests. I know Alistair Griffin as I worked on Fame Academy with him, so it was really nice to see him doing exactly what the Fame Academy set out to do – make him a great pop star. And, of course, it's always good to see Blue. They just sum up mayhem. They're like a load of kids running around in the studio. As far as guests go, Neil "Razor" Ruddock from I'm a Celebrity ... is my favourite so far. He's a top bloke. He was a like a kid and he really enjoyed himself. Afterwards, he thanked me for splatting him in the face! He said he'd always wanted someone to do that.



Cakey Skate is my favourite part of the show. Lee was good value as usual and you see why the show's called Ministry of Mayhem with someone like him going mad with a trolley of cakes. Everyone around him got covered! He didn't actually end up winning but he didn't seem to mind. Simon and Duncan didn't like their electric chair experience very much. It really does hurt when you get a shock, but they handled it really well. Beforehand, Simon covered his chair with a load of my cue cards to stop it hurting as much, but I saw him and removed them all!

Lee smashed an egg on my head [right] while I was interviewing the boys. I knew that he would do something! And I'll get him back one day, you can be sure of that ... Whatever happens on the show, I always seem to get gunged. Everyone ends up really messy, even the audience. Steve [Mulhern] and Michael [Underwood] are always in a state by the end of the show, too. Some weeks I get away with it, but not often. I just run off for a quick shower after the show.

Presenters Michael, Holly and Steve

All in all the show went brilliantly today. I always like to watch it afterwards and see how it went as you can't always tell. The more shows I do, the more I enjoy them as tend to be more relaxed. I feel like the show gets better each week. I've got the best job in the world. I feel so lucky – how many people get to mess around for a living?

Catch Ministry of Mayhem, every Saturday on ITV, from 9.25am

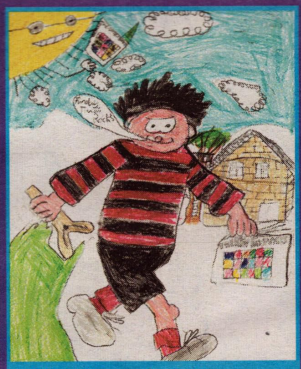
PICTURES: WILL SWEET/ITV PLC

PICTURE: ©PHIL TEDMARSH/BOOKMOUTH NEWS

Why don't aliens celebrate Christmas?
Because they don't like to give away their presence!

What's a skunk's favourite band?
N-Stink!

Niamh Oonagh, via e-mail



Elliot Edwards, 8, Newport

Dear f-mail,
It would be a brilliant idea to make Eoin Colfer's Artemis Fowl books into films, as they're exciting, imaginative, gripping books that suck you into a different world and don't let you go until the end. I have read the first three and I can't wait to read The Seventh Dwarf, I'm sure it will be amazing. If someone does make them into a film, I'll be the first one to see it. I hope Eoin writes more Artemis Fowl books, and I think boys and girls across the UK will agree with me.
Nick Ward, 10, via e-mail

Ellie Lodge-Chilton, 13, Telford

Little pigeon
in the sky,
Dropping
things from
way up
high.
Angry
farmer
wipes his
eye,
Very glad
that cows
don't fly!
Shane McDowell, Letterkenny, Ireland

Got a joke? Then share it with f-mail!

MEET THE AUTHOR

Following the publication of Pete Johnson's latest book, Avenger, Funday takes the popular author to meet a group of young readers so that he can answer their questions

What gave you the idea for Avenger?
When I was 12, I changed schools and I hated it because I didn't want to leave my friends. I got off to a very bad start and by the third day I got the silent treatment, which went on for a long time. I was really upset, but I was too ashamed to tell anybody about it. Then, if you flash forward a few years, I was chatting to people in schools, and some boys and girls told me similar things about how they had been picked on and how they couldn't tell anybody at all because it was too embarrassing. A couple of people said the one person they felt they could tell was a grandparent. So, these strands all came together and I wrote a book about a boy being picked on and how he dealt with it.

How did you choose the names for the characters in Avenger, were they people from your school?
No, I played around with the names. I've never liked my first name very much, so when I name characters in books, I pick names I'd like to have been called. So, Daniel, Matthew, Gareth, Josh are all names I'd love to have been called. For the other main character, Jake, I just tried to pick a name that suited him. I could see him strutting around with a name like Jake.

Where did the idea of the grandpa coming back to visit after he'd died come from?
My grandmother died when I was 11, and I was very close to her so I missed her very much. Afterwards, I sometimes had the feeling that she was still quite close by. I cannot prove it, but I had that feeling. So, I took that idea and gave it a twist. Some people think the grandad in Avenger is just a dream while others think he did come back, but that's all up to the reader.

In the book, why did you use a wrestling mask for the Avenger?
I met an old guy, who was probably about grandad's age, and he told me that he used to go wrestling and it sounded quite funny. He said they used to have a wrestling match and then shake hands and have a cup of tea afterwards. It sounded quite jolly. But he said an interesting thing, he said that all of us put masks on in our lives – even if it's just getting dressed up for a party. I loved the idea of grandad putting on a mask and becoming a different character.

Out of all the books you've written, what's your favourite?
I've probably got three favourites out of my books. How To Train Your Parents is probably my funniest book. I also really like Traitor, which looks at bullying on the way home from school, and there is perhaps more of me in Avenger than anything else I've ever written.

What did you read while growing up which inspired you to become a writer?
I read masses of books when I was younger. I did like comedy books and I very much liked reading Roald Dahl books. When I was eight, I wrote to Dodie Smith, who wrote 101 Dalmatians. She was the first person who encouraged me to become a writer. She gave me masses of tips and loads of advice.

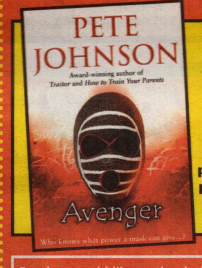
What gave you the idea to write in the first place?
Well, I always like telling stories, particularly spooky stories. I used to pretend my shed was haunted and I'd tell scary stories there. Once, I went on a trip to Swanage and I told all the girls that a matron had been hacked to bits in the room they were sleeping in. At first they didn't believe me, but I learnt the secret of writing, which is to keep adding details. I added more details and made it so scary that none of the girls would sleep in the room. I saw the power of being a storyteller and it was brilliant.

How long does it take for you to write one of your books?
It takes me about six or seven months. I do lots of planning first. I go into schools and chat about the characters and the book. I plan it all out in my head. I think it's going to be brilliant, then, when I write the first draft I realise it's not! So I re-write it over and over again to make it as good as possible.

Do your books have a message?
In a book I try to ask questions. In Avenger, I look at what it's like for a boy to be suddenly picked on when he's never been picked on before. But hope I don't have a message in an obvious way.

Where do you write your books?
I've got a very nice room, with big windows and posters on the walls, sofa in the corner when I can sit and think about things. It's a very happy and friendly room where I feel at ease, so I do most of my writing in there.

I hear that J K Rowling takes a notebook with her everywhere she goes in case she gets a good idea. Do you do that?
I do I'm afraid, even if I go out for a drink on a Friday night, which sends my friends mad. But you never know when you're going to get a good idea, and if you don't have a notebook with you, you'll forget it.

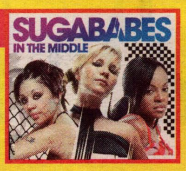


Pete Johnson's latest book, Avenger, is out now in paperback, price £4.99

Funday would like to thank the staff and pupils at Sandringham School, St Albans, who took part. The students were: Aimee Southward, Ravi Seebhujaun, Joe Gess, Naomi Martin, Luke Massey, Alice Whitton-Varnam, Lily Coombs, Oliver Jackson, Jenna Strange, Adam Calthrop, Samantha Chuck and Patrick Jakubowski

FRESH! THIS WEEK

SINGLE

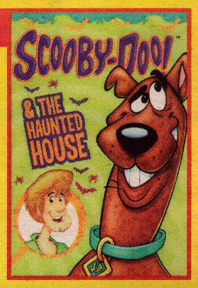


In the Middle
Sugababes
Not quite in the same league as Hole in the Head or Million Different Ways from the girls' Three album, but In the Middle still licks most of opposition with its catchy chorus and dirty bass sound. Heidi, Mutya and Keisha sound as sweet as ever with this – and the flashy video shows the girls know how to strut.

FILM

Open Range [cert 12A]
You either love or hate Westerns but if you're a fan, Open Range is one of the best around. Thanks to some fine acting from Robert Duvall and Kevin Costner, some beautifully-shot scenery and a gripping plot – this is engrossing viewing. The gunfight at the end shows how the Wild West really was – dirty, scary and nasty.

BOOK



Scooby-Doo & the Haunted House
This mini-sized comic book is packed to the max with spooky Scooby adventures. Containing six stories from Mystery Inc's case book and printed on quality paper, even Shaggy would be able to prise himself away from the fridge to have a look. Out on Friday, Scooby-Doo & the Haunted House [Titan Books, £3.99] gets the paws up!

PLAYSTATION 2

Disney's The Haunted Mansion
Wooooh! Step into The Haunted Mansion, with its hidden doors, secret passages and ghostly spirits. Well, this isn't actually that creepy and some of the collecting aspects – you must pick up spirits, cards and other bits and bobs – are confusing. Once you know what you are looking for, it gets a bit predictable. Frightfully average!

SWEET TREAT

Cremosa
The blurb says Cremosa [35p] is a revolutionary sugar-free lolly from Chupa Chups. It is sugar-free, it is made from a natural sweetener and the strawberry and cream flavour is quite tasty. But revolutionary? Not really. Cremosa does give you a better option to fattening chocolate and crisps – but don't go eating as many as you want!

SINGLE

Naughty Girl
Beyonce
Although this is Beyonce's sixth single from the Dangerously in Love album, Naughty Girl is far from tired or flabby. It's got a killer loop that gets you hooked which, coupled with Beyoncé's breathless vocals and recognisable Love to Love You Baby lyric, makes this a seriously funky single. Go girl!

PLAYSTATION 2

The Cat in the Hat
The game of the film from the book – if you see what we mean! The Cat in the Hat is a wacky little platformer as Cat chases Mr Quinn around his bizarre worlds. Visually, it's boldly impressive and the Cat and Fish's cheeky batter keeps you smiling. But it's not that testing, so for young gamers and first-time parents only!

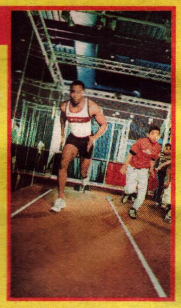
SINGLE

Breathe Easy Blue
Blue step into Westlife territory with this warbling ballad. With its piano opening, love-torn lyrics and crescendo ending, it sounds like Bryan McFadden has sneaked in to join Dunc, Si, Ant and Lee. Breathe Easy is not Blue's most instantly-appealing single but it certainly showcases their vocals. Perhaps a grower?

EASTER

Design your own Easter Egg Kit
Woolworths has always tried to be different when it comes to festive goodies and here's another example. So if you're planning to just sit and scoff your eggs on Easter Sunday, why not think again? This cracking kit [£2.99] makes you work for your choccie treats as you decorate the eggs with icing and midget gems.

DAY OUT



Science of Sport
Thought sport was just fun? Think again with the new Science of Sport exhibition at London's Science Museum. Learn about co-ordination, reactions, diet and sports technology. You can also test your muscle power and sprint against a mate – complete with action replay. It's a bit pricey, though, under 16s, £8, adults £11. For info, call 0870 906 3890.

GOOD OK BAD

PICTURES ©SCIENCE MUSEUM MAX DODSON

WIN IT!

I SPY

Out now on DVD and VHS, Carmen and Juni go 3-D in the action-packed sequel Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over [cert U]. For the first time, 3-D arrives on DVD so look out for the special glasses! In the film, spy kid Juni has to return to the family's espionage business after sister Carmen gets captured ... in a computer game! But can he release Carmen from the clutches of The Toymaker?
Buena Vista Home Entertainment is offering two lucky readers a family ticket each [for five people] to Namco Station in London for an exclusive 3-D screening of Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over on Saturday, May 22. The prize includes a day at Namco – with its pool tables, bowling, arcade games and refreshments; overnight accommodation and money towards travelling expenses. Each winner also receives a Spy Kids 3-D goody bag and Namco arcade tokens and refreshments.

To enter, tell us which actor plays Carmen and Juni's dad in the Spy Kids movies.

Mark your entry SPY KIDS and send it, with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to the competition address on page two.

The 3-D version of Spy Kids 3-D in only available on DVD. The VHS contains 2-D version of the film only

© BUENA VISTA HOME ENTERTAINMENT, INC

THE ROCK IN A HARD PLACE

Wrestling star The Rock tells Dave Coombs about the challenges he faced making his first action/comedy film, Welcome to the Jungle

What was the biggest challenge you faced making Welcome to the Jungle?
Testing my comedic timing because I had done that in wrestling for so many years, but I had relied on physical comedy. On the big screen, it's another level. The camera misses nothing and your timing has to be right on point.

Before you became a wrestler you gained a degree in criminology. Are people surprised when they discover your history?
Every day, people say I'm not like they think I'll be. I'm a big fan of old-fashioned hard work and getting your hands dirty. On the film set, it's exactly the same and, as far as possible, I do my own stunts.

The fights look painful, do they hurt?
Oh it hurts, there's a fair amount of pain involved. But fortunately for me, I had been wrestling for five years before I broke into film, so I know how to fall and take a punch or a hit.

What's life like on set as the big star?
In films, I believe that hard work starts at the top, same as in life. And I believe in treating people how you would want to be treated. I know that's said a lot but it's abused and you see it all the time – people treating others in a poor way – and that's my biggest pet peeve. It's a great blessing to be in a position where I can make these fun, entertaining, big-budget movies and be the lead actor, so I try to set an example of how the crew is going to be treated.

In Welcome to the Jungle, your character's scared of flying on a flimsy plane. Are you a nervous flyer in real life?
No, I'm a good flyer because I have to be. But I am not good with creepy crawlies, and I am not good at all with spiders. I found a real black widow spider in the house I built in California, man that thing had this big red spot on top. But I killed it ... hey, I conquered the beast! The Rock's proud, man.

The Rock with co-star Sean William Scott

PICTURES: COLUMBIA TRISTAR FILMS UK

You're half Samoan, do you have strong ties with the country?
Yes. I'm half black and half Samoan, and I have a lot of family in Samoa. Growing up in Hawaii, the Samoan ties are very strong because it's part of Polynesia. Heritage and pride are so important in my family, on both sides, my black side and my Samoan side.

Have you come across racial prejudice in your professional career?
Oh you bet, and that's another pet peeve of mine. My best friend, who is my agent, is white and Scottish, and we were just saying last night that it wasn't that long ago, in the 1960s and even the 1970s in some places, that we could not have sat together to eat lunch. Isn't that crazy? And growing up, I experienced a lot of prejudice through professional wrestling. When I lived in Dallas, Memphis, Nashville, Atlanta, Charlotte, all throughout the Deep South, people would look at me and ask: "What are you?" But I would just always be proud.

The Rock stars in Welcome to the Jungle [cert 12A] which opens nationwide on Friday

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FEEL THE FURY

Skips is the proud sponsor of the new Chessington World of Adventures family rollercoaster ride, Dragon's Fury.

Not content with providing a fizzing tongue sensation with its Prawn Cocktail, Buzz Bacon and Tickle Pickled Onion flavoured snacks, Skips will now be sending your family into a spin on the new ride.

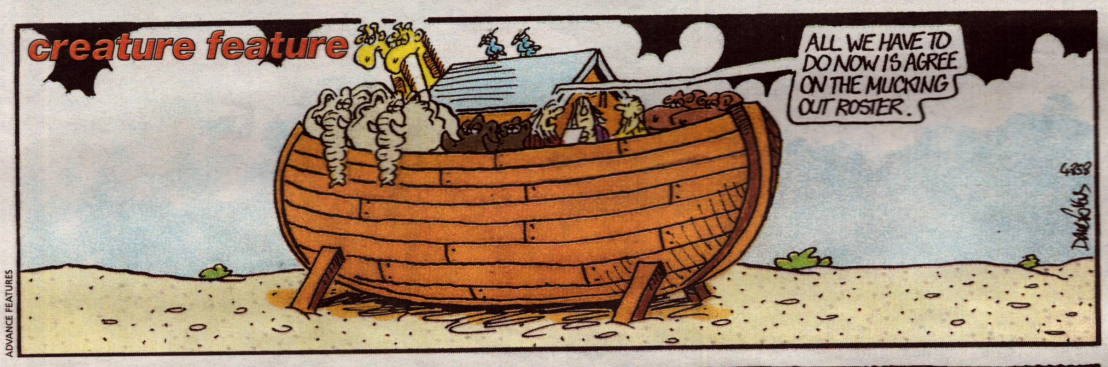
Look out for special packs of Skips which feature the chance to win one of 200 family annual passes to top Tussauds Group attractions. Skips is also giving seven lucky Funday readers an annual family pass each [for two adults and two children].

Family annual passes are valid for 12 months to visit Chessington World of Adventures, Thorpe Park, Alton Towers, Madame Tussauds and Warwick Castle as many times as you like.

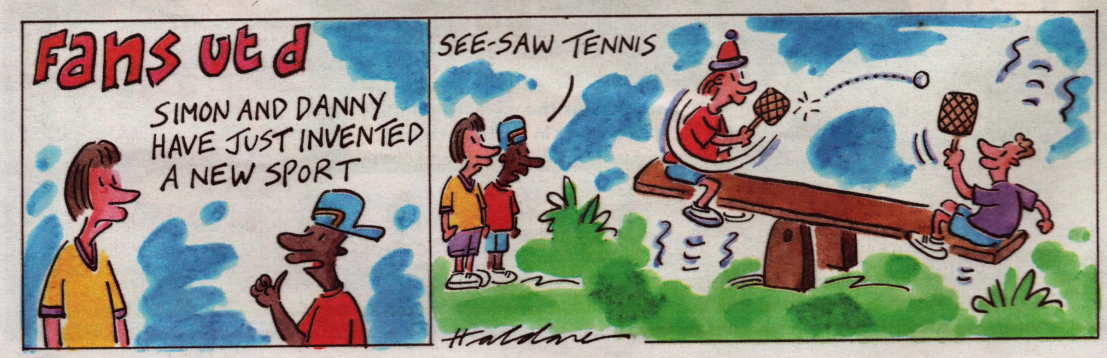
To enter, tell us the name of Hagrid's pet dragon in Harry Potter.

Mark your entry SKIPS and send it, with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to the competition address on page two.

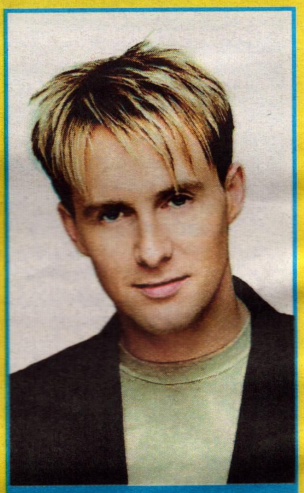
Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions



ADVANCE FEATURES



QF QUICKFIRE



H FROM STEPS

How tidy was your room when you left it this morning?
Very untidy, but my cleaner's coming today so that's good.

What's on your CD player right this minute?
A guy called Josh Groban, who's this beautiful tenor. I think he's Italian, but he doesn't often sing in Italian. [Josh is actually from Los Angeles – Ed.]

What TV show will you never try to miss?
Will and Grace.

Who's the rudest celebrity you've met?
Christina Aguilera, without a doubt. She was really unladylike and very dismissive. She clicked her fingers for us to be moved out of the way by her bouncers. I was quite insulted because we'd just been on tour with Britney Spears, and she was really lovely and polite.

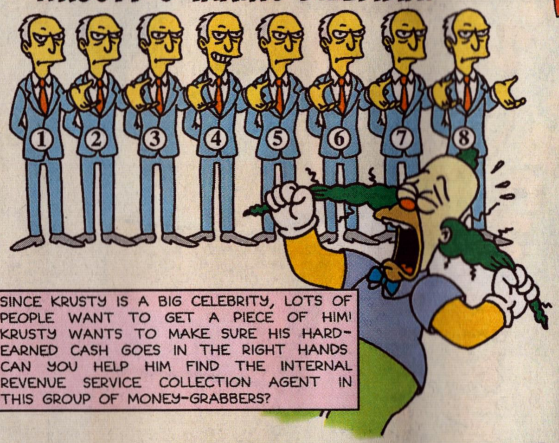
What's your secret geeky thing?
There's a geek in all of us, isn't there? If there's a word I don't know, I always look it up. My word for this week is salubrious.

What are you putting off doing at the moment?
Getting my roots dyed!

H is currently staring in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the New London Theatre

FUN MAT

KRUSTY'S TAXING DILEMMA!®



SINCE KRUSTY IS A BIG CELEBRITY, LOTS OF PEOPLE WANT TO GET A PIECE OF HIM! KRUSTY WANTS TO MAKE SURE HIS HARD-EARNED CASH GOES IN THE RIGHT HANDS CAN YOU HELP HIM FIND THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE COLLECTION AGENT IN THIS GROUP OF MONEY-GRABBERS?

ANSWER: ACTUALLY, THEY'RE ALL IRS COLLECTION AGENTS EXCEPT #4, WHO IS KRUSTY'S BOOKIE (HE'S SMILING BECAUSE HE KNOWS KRUSTY WILL PAY HIM FIRST, UNLESS THE CLOWN WANTS HIS LEGS BROKEN.)

BE ONE OF "KRUSTY'S SECRET AGENTS OF K.L.O.W.N.®" AND FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE!

H	E	Y	K	I	D	S	G	E	T	M	O	M
D	A	D	T	O	B	U	Y	Y	O	U	L	O
O	F	K	R	U	S	T	Y	B	U	R	G	E
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R	I	D	I	C	U	L	O	U	S	L	Y	B
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Attention, Agents of K.L.O.W.N.®. Commander Krusty has placed a secret message in the box above! See if you can find the hidden words and decode Krusty's secret message! (and, after you do, be sure to share it with all your friends!!)

Enter Krusty's Dead Presidents Art Contest®!

HEY THERE, ALL YOU BUDDING PICASSOS! JUST TAKE A PICTURE OF A PRESIDENT OUT OF MOMMY'S PURSE (EXTRA CREDIT IF IT'S NOT LINCOLN OR WASHINGTON) AND DRAW A MOUSTACHE UNDER HIS NOSE!

THEN SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO ME % KRUSTYLU STUDIOS®! THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT! MULTIPLE ENTRIES ARE ACCEPTED, SO PLAY OFTEN! WINNERS WILL BE BRIEFLY MENTIONED ON MY SHOW!

MATT GROENING

THAT'S RIGHT, BOYS AND GIRLS! FOR JUST A MEASLY $10, YOU CAN GET IN ON ALL THE BIRTHDAY FUN! AS A MEMBER, EVERY YEAR YOU'LL GET A CARD IN THE MAIL, LETTING YOU KNOW THAT IT'S ALMOST TIME TO SEND KRUSTY A BIRTHDAY PRESENT! HE'LL BE THINKING OF YOU WHEN HE BLOWS OUT THE CANDLES YOU CAN BET ON IT! (PLEASE, ALL PRESENTS MUST HAVE A CASH VALUE OF MORE THAN $25 AMERICAN, £50 IN ENGLAND.)

Name _____
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